

SECRET

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MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR

SUBJECT: Discussion with Mr. Jacob Stockfish, OES, on the Projected Review of Soviet Ground Forces

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1. At his request, Mr. Jacob Stockfish from Mr. Sullivan's staff visited my office on 22 March 1963 to discuss problems relating to the Special Ground Forces Project requested by Secretary McNamara.

[REDACTED] also were present. After a general exchange of information on where the request stands at present, the reasons for the DOD interest, and the problems and history of Soviet ground forces intelligence estimates, I outlined to Mr. Stockfish my views on the general guidelines to be observed as follows:

a. The project should be limited to the counterpart of the US army ground forces part of the US General Purpose Forces, that is, the Soviet ground forces. Tactical surface-to-surface missiles and tactical surface-to-air missiles would be included, but the Tactical Air Forces and army aviation would be specifically excluded.

b. The report of the project would be neither an estimate nor a net evaluation in the usual technical sense. Moreover, the time limits are such that the scope of the preliminary report should not, nor could not, in any practical sense attempt to answer the full range of questions suggested by the request. Rather, the preliminary report should, in my view, focus on a selected number of key objectives. Within the limits of these objectives, the preliminary report should result in establishing the low end of the range of uncertainty by fixing levels that can be supported by reasonably hard evidence. Establishment of other possible or probable alternative levels would be made to aid the estimators in formulating their judgments and aid the planners by quantifying the uncertainties. Further, cogent comparative US data should be developed to aid in understanding common terms which mask substantial real differences (a division is not a division - with apologies to Gertrude Stein) and to assist the net evaluation process.

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